

I am deeply concerned about trends in our public media today. Too many people believe whatever they see on television, hear on the radio, or read in print; and our news media today are often too partisan to serve and protect the public interest.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Either they should be stopped from forcing the program to be aired, or they should be required to air a comparable program presenting the opposing view.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

It is critical that the the information we are bombarded with has some degree of accuracy and balance.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.